

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00558 01 OF 02 191938Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

MED-02 SS-15 SP-02 IGA-02 L-03 /075 W

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R 191559Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2892

DEA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 0558

DEPARTMENT FOR ARA AND S/NM AID FOR SER/INC

CARACAS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SNAR CO

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY NARCOTICS REPORT--COLOMBIA OCTOBER -  
DECEMBER 1975

REF: BOGOTA 9955 AND 12018

SUMMARY: NEW GOC STUDIES INDICATED GROWING DRUG ABUSE AMONG COLOMBIAN YOUTH. OPERATION KITCHEN IS RUNNING SMOOTHLY AND SUCCESSFULLY DESPITE EARLY TEETHING PROBLEMS. GOC NATIONAL POLICE REPORT THEIR DRUG CASE LOAD ROSE BY 130 PERCENT IN 1975. AT YEAR END 89 AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE SERVING TIME OF AWAITING TRIAL ON COLOMBIAN DRUG CHARGES. COLOMBIA NARCOTICS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING MOVES INTO HIGH-GEAR WITH ARRIVAL OF A CCINC-FUNDED MEDIA ADVISOR. GOC EXPECTS SUBSTANTIAL NEW DRUG AID IN THE FORM OF HELICOPTERS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT. INCREASING NUMBERS OF US-OWNED AIRCRAFT ARE BEING SEIZED BY COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES UNDER RECENT DRUG TRAFFICKING DECREE. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 00558 01 OF 02 191938Z

1. ABUSE. ACCORDING TO A GOC MINISTRY OF HEALTH SURVEY, NEARLY 40 PERCENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN BARRANQUILLA--COLOMBIA'S LARGEST PORT CITY--ARE REGULAR DRUG USERS. THE STUDY, PART OF AN EIGHT-CITY SURVEY UNDERWAY SINCE 1974, ALSO INDICATES THAT DRUGS SUCH AS MARIJUANA, BARBITURATES AND TRANQUILIZERS ARE PREFERRED OVER ALCOHOL BY STUDENTS IN THE 15 TO 25 AGE GROUP. THE BARRANQUILLA SURVEY RESULTS, RELEASED TO THE PRESS IN LATE DECEMBER, ARE BASED ON A SAMPLING OF SOME 50,000 SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS.

2. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING. AS A RESULT OF MARKEDLY TIGHTER SECURITY MEASURES AIMED AT STEMMING A RECENT WAVE OF KIDNAPPINGS, COCAINE TRAFFICKERS ARE APPARENTLY TAKING EXTRAORDINARY PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID DETECTION. DEA AND GOC NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTS THAT PROCESSORS OF ILLEGAL COCAINE FREQUENTLY CHANGE THE LOCATION OF THEIR CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES AND HAVE DISMANTLED SOME LABS BELIEVED SPOTTED BY GOC SECURITY SERVICES.

3. TRAFFICKING TRENDS: CASES DEVELOPED BY GOC AGENCIES AND EEA INDICATE THAT NARCOTICS VIOLATORS REMAIN DIVERSIFIED IN THEIR SMUGGLING METHODS. FOR EXAMPLE, GOC POLICE SEIZED A PRIVATE AIRCRAFT CARRYING 407 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE BASE INTO COLOMBIA, ANOTHER RECENT CASE INVOLVED THE SEIZURE OF FIVE KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE BOUND FOR THE PORT OF TURBO FOR EVENTUAL SEA SHIPMENT TO THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT TRAFFICKERS CONTINUE TO BRING COCAINE PASTE INTO COLOMBIA BY BOTH LAND AND SEA. LARGE SHIPMENTS OF MARIJUANA AND COCAINE CONTINUE TO BE MOVED TO THE STATES BY SURFACE VESSELS FROM THE NORTHERN (CARIBBEAN) COAST, WITH TRANSFERS TAKING PLACE ON THE HIGH SEAS.

4. ENFORCEMENT.

A. OPERATION KITCHEN, UNDERWAY SINCE MID-OCTOBER HAS RESULTED IN TOTAL SEIZURES OF NEARLY 430 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE, SEVERAL VEHICLES ONE AIRCRAFT, ONE CLANDESTINE LABORATORY, \$91,000 IN CASH AND 25 ARRESTS. THE NATIONAL POLICE (F-2) NARCOTICS UNIT HAS ASSIGNED MORE THAN 18 FULL-TIME AGENTS TO THIS OPERATION. THROUGH KITCHEN HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS, PREDICTABLE IN ANY FIRST-TIME OPERATION OF THIS SORT, WE DEEM IT SUCCESSFUL. THE OPERATION IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THROUGH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 00558 01 OF 02 191938Z

JANUARY, BUT MAY BE EXTENDED IF WARRANTED BY RESULTS THIS MONTH. (SEE BOGOTA 12018 FOR A FULL REPORT ON KITCHEN. AN ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT WILL BE ISSUED IN LATE JAN).

B. OTHER JOINT DEA-GOC ACTIVITIES. THOUGH GOC CUSTOMS WHICH IS FEUDING WITH OTHER ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES--CONTINUES TO TAKE LITTLE PART IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT, DEA CONTINUES TO COOPERATE WITH F-2, DAS AND THE GOC ATTORNEY GENERAL. OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS,

GOC-DEA COOPERATION HAS RESULTED IN SEIZURES TOTALING MORE THAN 42 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE, 49 KILOGRAMS OF HASHISH, TWO TONS OF MARIJUANA, TWO LABORATORIES, ONE AIRCRAFT AND 39 ARRESTS.

C. OPERATION FUNNEL. THE PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR OPERATION FUNNEL --A TRI-COUNTRY EFFORT AIMED AT ILLICIT COCAINE PASTE AND BASE SHIPMENTS INTENDED FOR COLOMBIA--HAS BEEN APPROVED AND WILL BE SIGNED IN EARLY JANUARY. DAS WILL BE THE GOC AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT THIS OPERATION, NOW EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MID-9176.

D. STATISTICS. THE GOC NATIONAL POLICE HAVE PUBLISHED STATISTICS INDICATING A MAJOR UP-SWING IN COLOMBIAN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN 1975. POLICE REPORT THEY HANDLED 4,814 CASES INVOLVING NARCOTICS IN 1975, VERSUS ONLY 1,256 CASES IN 1974. POLICE NARCOTICS ARRESTS IN 1975 TOTALED 1,252, INCLUDING 51 FOREIGNERS. SEIZURES TOTALED 681 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE, OVER THREE MILLION POUNDS OF MARIJUANA AND 12 LARGE CLANDESTINE COCAINE LABORATORIES.

E. AMERICAN CITIZEN ARRESTS. AT YEAR'S END, 89 AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE INCARCERATED IN COLOMBIAN JAILS FOR DRUG OFFENSES. OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS, 12 AMERICANS WERE CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO THREE-TO FOUR-YEAR TERMS FOR NARCOTICS VIOLATIONS. GOC STATE OF SEIGE REGULATIONS PROVIDING MILITARY JUSTICE FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS HAVE RESULTED IN SOME FASTER TRIALS, BUT THE BULK OF AMCITS JAILED IN COLOMBIA FOR DRUGS ARE STILL AWAITING THEIR DAY IN COURT. GOC MILITARY COURTS--WITH ONE EXCEPTION--HAVE NOT IN GENERAL IMPOSED SENTENCES HEAVIER THAN THOSE IMPOSED BY COLOMBIAN CIVIL COURTS FOR DRUG OFFENSES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00558 02 OF 02 191928Z

47

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 0558

5. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION.

A. NARCOTICS PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING GOT INTO HIGH GEAR WITH THE MID-DECEMBER ARRIVAL OF MR LAWRENCE CLAMAGE, AID-CONTRACT PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA ADVISOR TO THE GOC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS. MR CLAMAGE'S FIRST MAJOR PROJECT WILL BE TO ORGANIZE A NATIONAL MEDIA SEMINAR ON DRUGS, NOW TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 3. IN LATE OCTOBER, THE USIS BINATIONAL CENTER IN BOGOTA SPONSORED A FOUR-DAY SEMINAR ON DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING. SPEAKERS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF GOC POLICE FORCES, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, AND THE USIS AIO. THE SEMINAR WAS ONE OF A CONTINUING SERIES OF USIS-SPONSORED PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS AIMED AT INCREASING COLOMBIAN AWARENESS OF THE DOMESTIC DRUG PROBLEM.

C. PROMETEO, THE BOGOTA-BASED DRUG REHABILITATION AND PREVENTION CLINIC, FORMALLY OPENED ITS DOORS ON DEC 1ST. THE VENTURE SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE DONATIONS AND A GRANT FROM THE BOGOTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, IS ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT UNDER THE RECENTLY-SIGNED NARCOTICS "SELF-HELP" PROJECT AGREEMENT FUNDED BY CCINC AND THE GOC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS.

D. THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE NATIONAL  
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 00558 02 OF 02 191928Z

COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND THE GOC INSTITUTE OF FAMILY WELFARE SPONSORED A SEMINAR TO TRAIN TEACHERS TO DEVISE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THIRTY-FIVE "TRAINERS" ATTENDED. WHILE IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT REAL IMPACT THE SEMINAR WILL HAVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTE THAT THE CONFERENCE IS THE FIRST ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN PREVENTION PROGRAMS, AND THAT THE PROJECT WAS CONCEIVED AND CARRIED OUT INDEPENDENTLY.

6. TRAINING. CCINC FUNDS PAID THE COST OF TRAINING, CONSULTATIONS AND TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THREE PROMINENT COLOMBIAN DRUG ABUSE SPECIALISTS. TWO OF THE GRANTEES--DR MARIA CAMARGO OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND DR ANTONIO GUERRA OF THE CALI (CAMINOS) DRUG CENTER--ATTENDED A FOUR-WEEK INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION. DR FRANCISCO PUENTES, DIRECTOR OF THE CUBARAMANGA DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER, TRAVELED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES IN MIAMI, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON AND SAN FRANCISCO. ON THE ENFORCEMENT FRONT, AID-COLOMBIA NARCOTICS ADVISORS ARE WORKING WITH NATIONAL POLICE

TRAINING DIVISION PERSONNEL TO CREATE STRONGER, SPECIALIZED IN-COUNTRY NARCOTICS TRAINING FOR POLICE AGENTS AND OFFICERS. FUNDING FOR LOCAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND COMMODITIES IS INCLUDED IN EXISTING PROJECT AGREEMENTS WITH DAS, F-2 AND CUSTOMS. THE ON-GOING AID-POLICE DRUG TRAINING OPERATION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR EXERCISES AIMED AT UP-GRADING DAS AND GOC CUSTOMS LOCAL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CAPABILITIES.

7. REGIONAL AND MILITILATERAL COOPERATION. TWO RANKING EQUADORIAN DRUG PROGRAM OFFICIALS DR YOLANDA BASTIDAS AND SIXTO VALDEZ NIETO-- INVITED BY USAID, VISITED BOGOTA IN OCTOBER FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH COLOMBIAN COUNTERPARTS. USIS BROUGHT DR DAVID LEWIS OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL TO BOGOTA IN EARLY OCTOBER FOR EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH GOC DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM MANAGERS.

8. MISSION AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

A. COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ MADE A STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER. AMONG THE TOPICS HE DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER US OFFICIALS WAS NARCOTICS. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE SPARKED A GOC DESIRE FOR HELICOPTERS AND OTHER NEW EQUIPMENT FOR DRUG ENFORCEMENT. ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL SPECIFIC REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE AS YET. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 00558 02 OF 02 191928Z

COLOMBIANS TO CREATE INSTITUTIONS FOR BETTER COORDINATING THEIR COMPETING NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. WE ARE PRESSING THE GOC TO REALIGN NARCOTICS CONTROL OPERATIONS BEFORE WE OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON SPECIFIC NEW ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. (BOGOTA 0034).

B. DR HERNAN TELLEZ HAS REPLACED JORGE RESTREPO AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE GOC NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DANGEROUS DRUGS. THOUGHT THE COUNCIL--CHAIRMAN BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE--HAS NOT PLAYED A STRONG ROLE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES, THE MISSION CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH IT IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, REHABILITATION AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION.

C. THE GOC IS ENFORCING A JULY 1975 DECREE PROVIDING FOR CONFISCATION OF AIRCRAFT AND OTHER ARTICLES SEIZED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKERS. IN OCTOBER, GOVERNMENT DECREES AWARDED OWNERSHIP OF FOUR CONFISCATED AIRCRAFT--ALL OF THEM US-REGISTERED--TO DAS. SINCE THEN, GOC AUTHORITIES HAVE SEIZED THREE MORE US AIRCRAFT FROM TRAFFICKERS. THESE TOO ARE SUBJECT TO CONFISCATION, AS ARE TWO OTHER US AIRCRAFT FOUND ABANDONED IN THE GUAJIRA REGION, A HAVEN FOR SMUGGLERS OF ALL STRIPES.

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## Message Attributes

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